

November/  
December 2004

# Space Family Education, Inc. Newsletter

## Special Interest Articles:

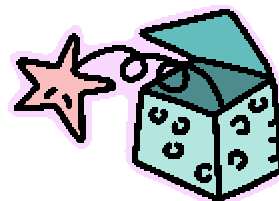
- Holiday Dates
- Individual classroom reports on the progress this year
- Fun crafts and recipes for the Holiday Season

## Highlights:

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## Holiday Dates and Information



November 23 <sup>rd</sup> :	Thanksgiving Feast
December 2 & 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Individual Pictures
December 15 <sup>th</sup> :	Pictures return
December 16 <sup>th</sup> :	Singing Christmas Program
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Santa Visits

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will host our Annual Thanksgiving Feast at the Gillruth beginning at 11:00 a.m. We will provide the turkey, stuffing, gravy, and rolls. The parents provide all the tasty side dishes. Start those diets now in order to get prepared by the Feast!

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, rooms 4-9 will sing Christmas carols in the Gillruth Ballroom beginning at 4:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. It should be very cute and entertaining.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, get those cameras ready because Santa Claus told us he will be stopping by the child care center around 3:30 p.m. to say hello to the kids. Have that list ready!

Happy Holidays!  
Kristy Hirning

## Hello from the Infant Room!

We would like to welcome everyone to our room. We feel blessed to have such a wonderful group of babies and parents. A big THANK YOU goes out to our parents for all of your hard work selling the cookie dough. We now have \$221.00 to buy new toys for the room. We would also like to thank you for the new Scholastic books, and for your help with the fall carnival.

As you know our room is very busy. Alysa Pham is walking and climbing. She loves to climb into the ex-saucer. Ryan Hurlbert and Keoni Powers are almost

ready to walk. William Blok has learned that he can roll to get from one place to the next. Ashley Fisher is trying very hard to crawl. She gets up on her hands and knees and rocks back and forth. Nathan Swartwout loves to jump and spin in the ex-saucer. Arthur Koerner can move around on the floor on his tummy with no problem at all. Caleb Shurtz and Drake Rodriggs are the swingers of our room, because the swings are their favorite place to be. Tarali Finke is on special assignment in Russia. She is meeting her Daddy for the first time. Welcome home Mike.

**Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday wishes:**  
Alysa Pham 11-16-04  
Ryan Hurlbert 11-27-04  
Keoni Power 12-29-04

**Teacher Birthdays:**  
Ms. Dianna on 11-23  
Ms. Amalia on 12-31 (shhh, she is turning 50!)

A special thank you to Cathy Koerner for the puppets and to Lianna Rodriggs and Dave Swartwout for being such great room captains.

Infant room teachers:  
Ms Sandra,  
Ms Teresa,  
Ms Amalia,  
Ms Cynthia  
Ms Dianna

## TODDLERS SAY THE FUNNIEST THINGS!

**Grace:** "I just turned 2 a few days ago and I can show you how old I am with my fingers. Just ask! I'm becoming more independent since I can drink from a big girl cup, wash and dry my own hands, and even clean up my mess after lunch! My teachers are so impressed."

**Cobe:** "I'm fascinated with tractors and trucks. I can sit for a long time looking at pictures of them. I can even identify my daddy's truck when I here it coming!"

**Jack:** "I love singing "Wheels on the Bus" and the "E.I.O." song. I also love my "woobie" which my teachers say it's my blanket. Oh by the way, NO MORE SIPPY CUPS FOR ME!"

**Julia:** "My teachers say I look like a little doll. Hey! If you had a hair-do and a cute face like mine, you'd say the same thing about yourself too! Oh and I can't forget to tell you about my soft and cuddly blanket. Yeah, it's pink and it helps calm me down before my nap time."

**Fynn:** "I am very frank when I answer. My teachers love how I say "yes." I may be shy now but you just wait. I could become an auctioneer before I'm 3!"

**Aubrey:** "I have learned to sleep on my big girl cot at nap time. My teachers say I won't stay in one spot like at the lunch table or on my mat before we go to sleep. Hey, I can't help it if my classroom has so much interesting stuff to look at!"

**Victoria:** "My teachers love my big beautiful blue eyes! Yeah, I got them from my mommy. My teachers seem to never know where I am because they like saying "where's Victoria." (I think it's because they like how I react)."

**Desmond:** "I'm learning how to be sweet to my friends by hugging them. Yeah, my teacher's think I give great hugs. My teacher's also like how I can play quietly by myself."

**Troy:** "My teacher's like how I answer them. "U-huh" and "no"! By the way mom, Ella and I are still really close friends. My teachers think we are cute when we hold hands and walk around our table together."

**Katalia:** "My teachers like hearing me laugh. I giggle a lot when I am swinging outside and I love to read our "Barney Puppet Show" book."

**Ella:** "Mommy and daddy, I think I have made my first best friend, it's Troy. We can laugh and play together all day if we wanted too. By the way mom and dad, I think the "belly button" thing isn't such a priority in my life as it used to be."

**Kiersten:** "My teacher's are so proud that I am sleeping on a big kid cot now! I love my "baby" and she helps me fall asleep. My teachers tell me to go and find her at nap time and she's right there to make me feel like everything is ok."

## Pre-K Room

Hello Pre-K parents. We have recently finished introducing and reviewing short vowel sounds and recognition. We have spent much time on vowels and stressed their importance of learning how to read to the children. We now are introducing blend ladders which consist of blending a consonant sound with a short vowel sound in preparation for early reading. Learning to blend letters together to create sounds and later words is a developmental task that sometimes needs extra practice. Please refer to our weekly lesson plan to see which set of Blends we are practicing and implement

additional practice at home if possible.

We will begin Reading Groups in January. The children will be grouped according to their developmental level. The children will not be aware of the different levels of the groups. We will send out more information on Reading Groups as it nears.

We have also been steadily counting our days of school in preparation of our 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School celebration. This activity aids in number recognition, one-to-one correspondence, and rote counting. The children are very aware of

our 100 Day Count and are looking forward to the celebration. Be on the lookout for our celebration notice.

We would like to say thank you again for giving us such wonderful birthday surprises. You really showed your appreciation! Also, we would like to again thank you all for all of the fundraising you have done to help us purchase materials for our class. We will keep you updated on our purchases. That's all for now.

Ms. Scott & Ms. Vanessa



## The Terrific Tods

As the crispy chill morning arrives, fall is in the air and room 2 has been busy during the month of October.

First of all, we are sorry Dr. Julie isn't signing with us but we are happy that our movement teacher, Ms. Teresa Gill is our new sign language teacher. Our room is also enjoying Ms. Tess for story time and will eventually be ready for TumbleBus when we all turn 2.

A great big "thank you" to all the parents who participated during the cookie dough fundraiser, bought books for us at the book fair, and to Keirsten Lin's parents for donating toy Lego trucks for our classroom.

Our highlight of events began with our Fall Carnival with loads of goodies and games. We appreciate all the parents who worked the carnival booths. The children enjoyed the trick or treating

activity around the day care center. We enjoyed seeing your children dressed up in their cute costumes. Grace was a butterfly. Jack was Spiderman. Ella was a ladybug, Troy was a puppy, Julia and Cobe were pumpkins, Victoria was a fairy, Aubrey was a hoola-girl, and Fynn was a jolly joker.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will have a Thanksgiving Day Feast at the Gilruth. This is the day when you can join us for turkey and dressing and lots of conversation with the other parents. Make sure to mark your calendar with all the Holiday dates and activities.

### Two Birthdays!

**Grace 10/26      Jack 11/06**  
**Desmond 12/03      Victoria 12/06**  
**Ella 12/18**

During the past few months, your children have suddenly begun speaking. Not just a word or two, but

even short sentences. Like, "the mower man is outside", "mommy's at school and daddy's at work" and to "swing higher please." During a past lesson, we have also learned about the fireman and policeman and the loud noises they make. Our favorite books are "Barney's Puppet Show" and "Barney's Opposite Book." We've learned the difference between hot and cold, open and close, front and back, and sleeping and awake. Don't forget our favorite music: "the Wiggles". The "Hot Potato" song is our favorite.

We have enjoyed teaching and caring for your children for the past couple of months. Thank you for entrusting us.

Ms. Jenny      Ms. Mary  
Ms. Jasmin      Ms. Cynthia  
Ms. Diana.

## Room 3

Ms. Wanda, Ms. Joy and Ms. Sharisse are happy to be the teachers for such great kids in Room 3. It's hard to believe that we have only been in school for three months now. We would like to welcome our enrichment teachers this year: Ms. Teresa (sign language and movement) and Ms. Tess (flannel board). The children have accomplished the following so far this year.

### **Accomplishments:**

1. Using spoons and cups.
2. They are all brushing their teeth after lunch now.
3. Madeline, Nathan, Arkadia, Makai and Ally are going to "Tumble Bus" and loving it.

### **Past events:**

1. Eating snacks and watching the Balloon Fest was fun.
2. Fire Safety week – the kids had a blast on the fire truck.
3. Grandparents Day was great and we enjoyed meeting the Grandparent's.
4. The Book Fair was a great success. We got lots of new books.
5. The fall carnival was lots of fun for the kids.

### **Thank you:**

A big THANK YOU goes out to all our parents for the wonderful books they bought at the book fair and for all the items they bought during the fall carnival. A big thank you goes out to our room

captain Trish Caffey and Co-captain Teresa Shurtz for all their great work they are doing. A big hand goes out for the cookie dough money our parents raised, \$556.20. WOW!

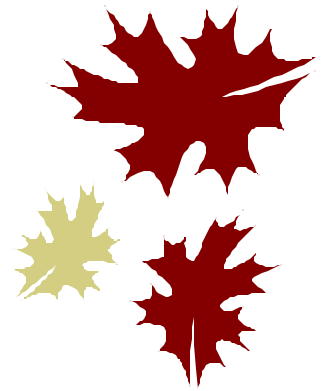
### **Birthdays:**

Kenny (9-7), Scott (9-18), Gage (10-24). Now we're all the Big 2.

### **Up Coming Events:**

We are looking forward to the holidays. Especially the Thanksgiving Feast, visit from Santa and a very Happy New Year!

Ms. Joy is glad to be back and would like to thank everyone for the lovely plant and best wishes that they sent.



## Room 4

We have had a great beginning in our classroom. Several of our two's have accomplished using the potty and several more are learning. The children are learning to follow simple directions.

Our goals for the next two months will be working on our friendships. We encourage our friends to use words during disagreements, how to take turns, and share as well as continuing potty training. We also encourage gentle touches such as hugs, pats on

backs, and holding hands with our friends.

We want to give a special thank you to all of you parents that are always helping and contributing to our classroom with supplies for activities. Thank you for all the help from the book fair, cookie dough fundraiser, and carnival. We are looking forward to the Thanksgiving Feast. We also would like to thank our room captains, Jill Lin and Melanie Saunders for doing such a great job!

We ask the children what they are thankful for, and this was their reply:

Libby--- "My Daddy"  
 Halle--- "My Kirsten"  
 Tom--- "For Paint"  
 Joel--- "My Mommy"  
 Whit--- "My Daddy"  
 Siddarth---"My Daddy"  
 Angus---"My Drum"  
 Rachel---"A Tiger"  
 Ryan--- "A Potty"  
 Jackson---"John Paul"  
 Chad--- "A policeman"  
 Vivek--- "Mamma"  
 Logan--- "Daddy"  
 Jenna--- "My Brother"

Ms. Teresa & Ms. Sandy  
 Room 4 Teachers

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*" We encourage our friends to use words during disagreements, how to take turns, and share as well as continuing potty training. ."*

## Room 5

**Fun Stuff from Rm. 5**  
**Chandra – I'm going to space like my Dad!**

**Garrett – You better put your hands on your head and catch a bubble or you can't go outside.**

**Claire Hess – My Daddy gave me bad hair cut.**

**Ethan – He was a clown for Halloween and on the way to our parade he said "I'm having a bad hair day".**

Welcome to Room 5. The school year has been "GREAT"!

We have achieved many such as "the pledge days of the week, writing our names, following directions and sitting quietly for story-time!

We would like to welcome Mike Fincke back to Earth! You did a great job for our country and we appreciate it! We do miss Chandra while he has been out visiting dad.

Thank you to all of the parents that purchased cookie dough. We collected \$410!! We will buy new toys and supplies for our classroom.

The fall carnival was another great success. We could not have pulled it all together without the parents help.

Trick or Treating was fun!! Our short bus trip was exciting for our students. That was the first time they have rode on our new yellow school bus. We behaved so nicely that we will go on more field trips in the near future. McDonalds sound like a good first step!

Our Thanksgiving feast has lots of "yummy" food. We hope you all can join in on the fun on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our Christmas program

will be exciting on December 16<sup>th</sup>. We are practicing a few songs for your entertainment.

Chandra, Nicholas, Jake and Ethan love our trains and racetracks. Garrett and William hang out together on the tire swing, while Jessica, Claire H. and Tayva love to play in the sand box (Sorry Mom and Dad); Ashlyn and Claire R. are "bestest friends"; L.J. and Herman like to play basketball, and Herman is our "Little Rapper". He even made up a rap song about Ms. Jamie and Ms. Georgia.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday.  
 Ms. Jamie  
 Ms. Georgia

## Room 6

**Rm. 6 Birthdays**

**November Birthday's** Miss Tess – Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>; Nandini Janapati – Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>; Lucas Rodriggs – Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>

**December Birthday's** Sasha Brashe- December 30<sup>th</sup>

It seems like just yesterday we were starting the new school year and here we are already in November. Our class has learned so many new things already. We are up to the letter L in the alphabet identifying the site and sound with new and inventive games.

For example, "Dance around the letter "L", where each child has to dance around the letter then stand on the letter and sound it out. We are also learning our numbers, shapes and colors in English and Spanish.

We have been learning about different cultures in other countries. In September, we studied Paris and talked about their customs and their wonderful art and food that we get from Paris. We even made delicious pastries with pastry dough and chocolate chips. In October we studied Japan. Amber's mom, Alene Farrar, made each of our children little origami birds and several other parents brought various books and crafts to share with the class.

In October we talked about farms and even went on a field trip to a farm called Froberg's in Alvin Texas. We cannot wait until our next field trip.

We would like to say a special thank you to all of our parents for their hard work on our carnival. The turnout of cakes was great the cake walk was a big hit. A special thanks goes to Scott Dunham, our room captain for all of the headaches we put him through. We couldn't make it without you, and you are greatly appreciated. The Trick or Treating also went off with out a hitch mostly do to all of the parents that met us there and helped out. The children were so cute in their costumes. The kids would probably even admit they got more than enough candy. Their poor little arms could barely hold the candy bags.

We would also like to thank all of the enrichment teachers. The children just love Miss Teresa who teaches movement on Mondays, and Miss Scott who teaches science and culture on Tuesday. Miss Ricki once again entertains us with her colorful way of teaching Spanish. We thank you all, the children learn a lot from you and so do the teachers.

P.S. Room Six made \$645 from the sale of the cookie dough! Way to go parents of room six! We will be informing you within the next few months of our purchases, and if you have any ideas of what you would like to see in our rooms please let us know. - Ms. Tess & Ms. Evelyn

## Kindergarten

Kindergarten started on August 16<sup>th</sup> with 16 eager boys and girls arriving at 8:00am. During the first week of school, we learned how to start reading from our reading folders using our Word Wall Words. The children have a poetry folder to take home every week to share with their family. The whole class is very good at memorizing and saying our poems.

We have learned about apples and pumpkins this fall. We have measured, weighed, graphed, cooked with and read about apples and pumpkins. The children are becoming experts at estimation "guessing". They have estimated many items from a jar of candy and manipulatives. They also had to estimate

the number of seeds in an apple and a pumpkin. We love the fall season with all the changes in nature. We are studying nature and animals getting ready for winter.

The children have learned about opposites, rhyming words compound words, describing words (adjectives) and action words (verbs). The children have lots of fun making up and using the correct punctuation marks. We are also planning to learn a lot of addition and subtraction in the next few weeks.

Curious George goes home with a different child each week and each family writes about the fun time they have had with him. Mystery Monkey goes home several times a week and comes back

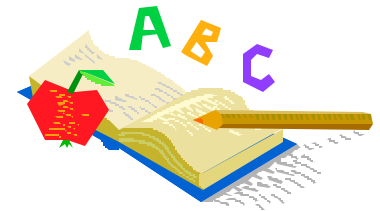
with a mystery inside him that the children have fun guessing.

A great big Kindergarten thank you for all the wonderful books that were bought for our classroom at the recent Scholastic Book Fair, they will all be read and loved!

We are looking forward the Thanksgiving Feast on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Kindergarten will be closed during the week of November 22<sup>nd</sup> but after school care will be available.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ramsay  
Jody Garza



*During the first week of school, we learned how to start reading from our reading folders using our Word Wall Words.*

## Hola from Room 7

We have been very busy since the start of the school year! We have been going on field trips, cooking, carving calabazas (pumpkins), learning the blends and learning how to write. We have also been learning Spanish and Sign Language plus a whole lot more. That is just the beginning! We have so much more to do. In November we are learning about the first Thanksgiving and having Thanksgiving lunch at the Gilruth. We will be learning more blends and start beginning to work on math papers. In December, we will learn about the first Christmas, go Downtown to see a play, sing Christmas songs twice at the Gilruth, (once at a luncheon and once for our parents). We will also be cutting, gluing and painting a lot of Christmas projects. We would like to wish a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the 2004 birthdays; Alex-August 20, Casey-October 1, Bryce-October 14, Nicole-November 4, Anna-November 30 and Vincent-December 30. Hold on to your hats because we are going to be BUSY! - Ms. Ricki & Ms. El

## Try Something New with Turkey Leftovers – A TURKEY BURRITO!

Recipe from [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com) This recipe calls for instant flour, formulated to dissolve easily in liquids, and primarily used as a thickener in gravy recipes. Chicken broth can be used in place of turkey broth.

Prep Time: Approximately 30 minutes. Cook Time: Approximately 2 hours. Ready in: Approximately 2 hrs. 30 minutes. Makes 10 servings.

3 cups cooked turkey, chopped

3 cups turkey broth (or chicken)

1 lb. Shredded Cheddar cheese

3 cups prepared stuffing

1 onion, chopped

(Cooking Directions on next page)

3 cups mashed potatoes

10 (10 in) flour tortillas

3 jalapeno peppers, seeded and minced

3 cups leftover gravy

¼ cup self rising flour



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### Turkey Burrito Continued

In a slow cooker, combine turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, broth, and onion. Cook for 2 hours, or until onion is soft. When ready to serve, thicken with flour if needed.

Warm tortillas in a dry frying pan over medium heat. Spoon turkey mixture onto a warm tortilla, sprinkle with cheese, and roll into a burrito! Repeat with remaining ingredients.

Spread more cheese on top and add another spoonful of the turkey mixture over the cheese. Serve Hot!

## Christmas Crafts

### *Glowing Candles:*

Use a snowflake punch, double sided adhesive sheets, votive candleholders and glitter

Punch out snowflakes out of the double sided adhesive sheets. Peel off one side and stick to front of votive holder. Peel off top layer of adhesive, and

sprinkle snowflake with glitter and brush off excess.

*Initial It :* Use your child's alphabet stencils to make personalized gift tags.

Trace letter stencil onto gift tag. Fill in with clear glue, and sprinkle with glitter. Shake off excess, and let dry. Thread with

ribbon.



## Turn Holiday Candy Into a Sweet Wreath

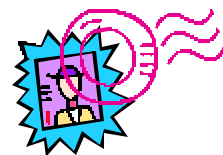
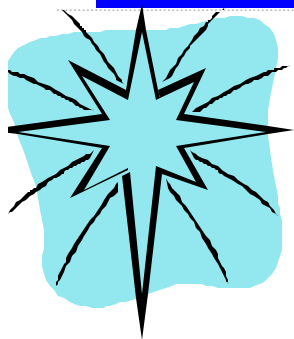
Use gumdrops, hard candy (in the wrapper), and your creativity to create sweet wreaths!

For each project, use a 6" Styrofoam wreath. Use either a hot glue gun or toothpicks (for gumdrops)

to attach the candy. Hang wreaths (using ribbon or floral wreath hanger) well out of the reach of children under 3. Great gifts that you and your children can make for grandparents or friends. Decorate with ribbons.

Just layer around the entire wreath in any fashion your creativity calls!

For more ideas like this one check out [www.parents.com](http://www.parents.com)



**TO:** Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus

**FROM:** The Space Family Education, Inc.

*Have a very Happy Holiday Season!!  
HO! HO! HO!*